

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A packing method using a palette on which an article to be packed can be placed, and an article-fixing member which fixes the article on the palette, wherein

5 the article-fixing member is accommodated in the palette such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out when the article is to be packed and is wound around the article to firmly fix the article on the palette.

10 2. The packing method according to claim 1, wherein the article-fixing member is wound around the article at least in a direction that is perpendicular to the plane of the palette, and when the article-fixing member is wound around the article, the article-fixing member pushes the article against the palette.

15 3. The packing method according to claim 1, wherein a ceiling plate which can be opened and closed is used, when the article is packed, the ceiling plate is opened, the article-fixing member is wound around a surface of the article below the ceiling plate and then, the  
20 ceiling plate is closed, a cover which covers an outer periphery of the closed ceiling plate is disposed, the surface of the article below the ceiling plate and the ceiling plate are fixed to each other through the cover.

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4. The packing method according to claim 3, the article is an image forming apparatus, the surface of the article is a document table located below the ceiling plate, the image forming apparatus is provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close with respect to the document table, and the document catch tray has a shape which stands up, the article-fixing member is wound around the document table located below the automatic document feeder having the article-fixing member which can open and close, thereby fixing the image forming apparatus on the palette.

5. The packing method according to claim 3, wherein the document table corresponding to the surface below the automatic document feeder corresponding to the ceiling plate is provided with a sheet material whose covering area can be changed, the article-fixing member is wound around an upper surface of the sheet material, the sheet material and a cover which covers an upper portion of the automatic document feeder are integrally formed together, and the automatic document feeder is fixed.

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6. A packing tool comprising:  
a palette to place an article;  
an article-fixing member accommodated in an accommodating section provided in the palette such that the article-fixing member can be pulled out from the accommodating section; and

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a plurality of posts mounted on the palette, wherein  
a length of the article-fixing member is adjusted in accordance  
with a height and a size of the article, and the article-fixing member  
pushes the article against the palette in the vertical direction.

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7. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein the palette is  
provided with the accommodating section for the article-fixing member,  
the accommodating section is provided with a structure which adjusts  
the pulling-out amount of the article-fixing member.

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8. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein the article-fixing  
member comprises a plurality of bands which can be wound around the  
article in parallel to each other in at least a horizontal direction.

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9. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein the article-fixing  
member comprises a band which is wound around sidewalls of the  
article in the horizontal direction.

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10. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein a portion of each  
the post is provided with a groove, and surface plates which can be  
stretched between the posts can be mounted in the grooves.

11. The packing tool according to claim 10, wherein a height of each  
the surface plate is lower than a height of the article.

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12. The packing tool according to claim 10, wherein one of the surface plate which is opposed to a back surface of the article is provided with an insertion section for the band which is wound around sidewalls of the article in the horizontal direction, the band which was  
5 inserted through the insertion section and was pulled out from the accommodating space of the article can be tied in accordance with a circumference length of the article, the band pushes the article against the palette and pushes the article against the surface plate and fixes the article.

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13. The packing tool according to claim 10, wherein each of the surface plate is made of synthetic resin, plate metal or plate material, and the surface plate can be press-fitted to the posts or palette.

15 14. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein when the article is an image forming apparatus provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray, which can open and close with respect to a document table corresponding to a surface of the article below the ceiling plate, and when the document  
20 catch tray has a shape which stands, the band used as the article-fixing member is integrally provided with a sheet material which can cover the document table and which has a variable covering surface, or the band can slide on the sheet material, the band is wound around the document table and pushes the image forming apparatus in the vertical  
25 direction and fixes the same.

15. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein when the article is an image forming apparatus provided at its upper surface with an automatic document feeder having a document catch tray which can open and close with respect to a document table corresponding to a surface of the article below the ceiling plate, and when the document catch tray has a shape which stands, the band used as the article-fixing member is wound around the document table, a sheet material for covering the document table is disposed on the document table, the sheet material is provided at its upper surface with a tunnel through which the band can pass, the sheet material can slide on the band.

16. The packing tool according to claim 14, wherein the sheet material which covers the document table is provided with a joint member which attachably and detachably supports a cover, the cover can cover an upper portion of the automatic document feeder which is put on an upper surface of the sheet material.

17. The packing tool according to claim 15, wherein the sheet material which covers the document table is provided with a joint member which attachably and detachably supports a cover, the cover can cover an upper portion of the automatic document feeder which is put on an upper surface of the sheet material.

18. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein a ceiling plate is mounted on the posts, the palette can be placed on the ceiling plate.

19. The packing tool according to claim 18, wherein heights of the posts can be changed in accordance with a height of the article.

20. The packing tool according to claim 18, wherein each the post  
5 has a relatively movable overlapped or superposed frames, the height of the post is changed in accordance with the height of the article by moving one of the frame with respect to the other frame, and the frames are fixed to each other at the height-changed position, thereby  
10 maintaining the position.

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21. The packing tool according to claim 6, wherein the surface plate stretched between the posts is provided at one surface with a leg which is connected to the surface in a hinged manner so that the leg can fall and stand up, the leg can be used as a landing leg which can support  
15 the surface plate which was removed from between the posts as a slope plate.